

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are made to place the claims in the preferred U.S. format and to remove multiple claim dependencies.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated January 15, 2002

Marked-up Claims -

1. (Amended) A disposable absorbent article[, such as a baby diaper, an incontinence diaper or the like], comprising :

a first end portion [(1)] and a second end portion [(2)], which portions are intended completely or partly to enclose [the] a user's waist area during use of the article, and an intermediate crotch portion [(3)],

said portions comprising an inner layer [(4)], which inner layer is turned towards the user during use and which inner layer is liquid-permeable at least in [the] a crotch portion opposite the user's genitals, a liquid-impermeable outer layer [(14)], and an absorbent body [(21)] disposed between said outer and inner layers,

said article including [being formed] in the area of the second end portion [(2) with] at least two mechanical tape fasteners [(25,26) intended], the mechanical tape fasteners adapted to be, upon application of the article, [to be] detachably interconnected with one or several fastening parts [(27)] disposed on the outer layer of the first end portion [(1)] and being complementary to said mechanical tape fasteners, [characterized in that the article comprises at least] wherein the two [of said] mechanical tape fasteners [(25,26), which] are oppositely arranged on the inner layer [(4)] of the article at opposite side portions [(23,24)] of said second end portion [(2)], [that] the two mechanical tape fasteners [(25,26)] each have one longitudinal and one transversal extension, [that] said mechanical tape fasteners are each permanently joined to the inner layer [(4)] of the article by means of a [producer's] first bonding face [(39)] arranged on a first end part [(28)] of each of the tape fasteners [(25,26)], [that] a [user's] second bonding face [(31)] is arranged on an [the] opposite second end part [(30)] of each of the tape fasteners, [the user's end part, that] prior to use of the article, the tape fasteners [(25,26)] are arranged in a folded storage

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condition, each one of said tape fasteners being formed with an odd number of folds [(38)] and the first and second bonding faces [of both said producer's bonding face (39) and said user's bonding face (31)] being turned towards the inner layer [(4)] of the article, [that] the [user's] second end parts [(30)] of the two [opposite] tape fasteners [(25,26) face] extend toward one another in said storage condition and [that] in the storage condition of said article, each of the tape fasteners includes a first [individual] fold part that is [parts (28 and 29, respectively) are] joined to at least one [of the] other fold [parts (28 and 29, respectively)] part by means of a bond [(32), preferably in the form of thermal or ultrasonic welds], said bond being breakable in order to [establish the position of use of said tape fasteners] secure the second bonding face to the one or several fastening parts.

2. (Amended) An article as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein in their condition of storage, the tape fasteners [(25,26)] are arranged in their entirety on the inner layer [(4)], with [the] laterally outermost end edges [(38)] of the tape fasteners being located interiorly of the lateral edges of said lateral portions [(23,24)].

3. (Amended) An article as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], [characterized in that] wherein in the condition of storage of the article, the mechanical tape fasteners [(25,26)] comprise one fold [(38)] only and in that the [latter] one fold forms the laterally outermost end edge of the tape fastener in said storage condition, [that] the [tape fasteners comprise a middle part (29), which] first fold part by means of said breakable bond [(32)] is connected to the first end part [(28)] and which covers the latter, and in that when the [user's] second

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bonding face [(31)] is in said folded storage condition, the opposite second end part [(30)] is located laterally interiorly of the first end part [(28)].

4. (Amended) An article as claimed in claim 3, [characterized in that] wherein the [user's] second bonding face [(31)] is in the form of hooks of a hook-and-loop fastener and [in that] the complementary fastening part [(27)] forms the other half of the hook-and-loop fastener and is made from a material, in which the hooks are able to fasten, said material being formed with apertures, loops or fibre filaments for co-operation with the hooks.

5. (Amended) An article as claimed in claim 4, [characterized in that] wherein the inner layer [(4)] of the article comprises fibres [in] to which the hooks of the [user's] second bonding face [(31)] fasten to form a weak bond relatively to the hook-and-loop fastener and said bond between the [middle] first fold part and the first end part.

6. (Amended) An article as claimed in [any one of claims 3-5] claim 3, [characterized in that] wherein the outermost end part [(33)] of each of the mechanical tape fasteners [fastener (25)] is coated with a pressure-sensitive adhesive providing a weak adhesion force.

7. (Amended) An article as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein said breakable bond [(32)] is designed to ensure that a

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force in the range of [0,2-2N, preferably in the range of 0.5-1.5N,] 0.2 to 2N is required to separate from one another joined-together tape-fastener strips having a width of 40mm.

8. (Amended) An article as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the bond [(32)] is in the form of a pattern of points or lines, and [in that] the bond is breakable without damage to the tape fastener [(25)].

9. (Amended) An article as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the mechanical tape fasteners [(25,26)] have a width of between 30 and 10 mm.

10. (Amended) An article as claimed in [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the mechanical tape fasteners comprise at least one elastic part [(29)] disposed between the [two end parts (28,30)] first end part and the second end part, said elastic part arranged to stretch upon occurrence of load during use of the article.

11. (Amended) An article as claimed in [any one of claims 1-9] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the mechanical tape fasteners [(25, 26)] do not stretch upon occurrence of load during use of the article.